NUMB. CXL.

The GUARDIAN.

——quibus incendi jam frigidus ævo
Laomedontiades, vel Neſtoris hernia poſſit. Juv.

Friday, Auguſt 21. 1713.

I Have lately received a Letter from an Aſtrologer in *Moor-fields*, which I have read with great Satisfaction. He obſerves to me, that my Lion at *Button*'s Coffee houſe was very luckily erected in the very Month when the Sun was in *Leo*. He further adds, that upon Converſing with the above-mentioned Mr. *Button* (whoſe other Name he obſerves is *Daniel*, a good Omen ſtill with regard to the Lion his Cohabitant) he had diſcovered the very Hour in which the ſaid Lion was ſet up; and that by the help of other Lights, which he had received from the ſaid Mr. *Button*, he had been enabled to Calculate the Nativity of the Lion. This Myſterious Philoſopher acquaints me, that the Sign of *Leo* in the Heavens immediately precedes that of *Virgo*, by which, ſays he, is ſignified the natural Love and Friendſhip the Lion bears to Virginity, and not only to Virginity, but to ſuch Matrons likewiſe as are pure and unſpotted, from whence he foretells the good Influence which the Roarings of my Lion are likely to have over the Female World for the purifying of their Behaviour, and bettering of their Manners. He then proceeds to inform me, that in the moſt exact Aſtrological Schemes, the Lion is obſerved to affect, in a more particular manner, the Legs and the Neck, as well as to allay the Power of the Scorpion in thoſe Parts which are allotted to that fiery Conſtellation. From hence he very naturally Prognoſticates, that my Lion will meet with great Succeſs in the Attacks he has made on the untuckered Stays and ſhort Petticoat, and that, in a few Months, there will not be a Female Boſom or Ankle uncovered in *Great Britain*. He concludes, that by the Rules of his Art he foreſaw, five Years ago, that both the Pope and my ſelf ſhould about this time unite our Endeavours in this particular, and that ſundry Mutations and Revolutions would happen in the Female Dreſs.

I have another Letter by me from a Perſon of a more Volatile and Airy Genius, who finding this great Propenſion in the fair Sex to go uncovered, and thinking it impoſſible to reclaim them entirely from it, is for compounding the matter with them, and finding out a middle Expedient between Nakedneſs and Cloathing. He propoſes, therefore, that they ſhould imitate their Great Grandmothers the *Britbs* or *Picts*, and Paint the Parts of their Bodies which are uncovered with ſuch Figures as ſhall be moſt to their fancy. The Boſom of the Coquette, ſays he, may bear the Figure of a *Cupid*, with a Bow in his Hand, and his Arrow upon the String. The Prude might have a *Pallas*, with a Shield and Gorgon's Head. In ſhort, by this method, he thinks every Woman might make very agreeable Diſcove-

ries

(Price Two Pence.)

SECURED ACCORDING TO THE ACT HALF-PENNY

ries of her ſelf, and at the ſame time ſhow us what ſhe would be at. But, by my Correſpondent's good leave, I can by no means conſent to ſpoil the Skin of my pretty Country-women. They could find no Colours half ſo charming as thoſe which are Natural to them; and tho', like the old *Picts*, they painted the Sun itſelf upon their Bodies, they would ſtill change for the worſe, and conceal ſomething more beautiful than what they exhibited.

I ſhall therefore perſiſt in my firſt Deſign, and endeavour to bring about the Reformation in Neck and Legs, which I have ſo long aimed at. Let them but raiſe their Stays and let down their Petticoats and I have done. However, as I will give them Space to conſider of it, I deſign this for the laſt time that my Lion ſhall roar upon the Subject during this Seaſon, which I give publick Notice of for the Sake of my Correſpondents, that they may not be at an unneceſſary Trouble or Expence in furniſhing me with any Informations relating to the Tucker before the beginning of next Winter, when I may again reſume that Point if I find Occaſion for it. I ſhall not, however, let it drop without acquainting my Reader, that I have written a Letter to the Pope upon it, in order to encourage him in his preſent good Intentions, and that we may act by Concert in this Matter. Here follows the Copy of my Letter.

To Pope Clement *the Eighth*, NESTOR IRONSIDE *Greeting.*

Dear Brother,

'I Have heard, with great Satisfaction, that you 'have forbidden your Prieſts to Confeſs any 'Woman, who appears before them without a 'Tucker, in which you pleaſe me well. I do a-'gree with you, that it is impoſſible for the good 'Man to diſcharge his Office, as he ought, who 'gives an Ear to thoſe alluring Penitents that di-'ſcover their Hearts and Necks to him at the ſame 'time. I am labouring, as much as in me lies, 'to ſtir up the ſame Spirit of Modeſty among the 'Women of this Iſland, and ſhould be glad we 'might aſſiſt one another in ſo good a Work. In 'order to it, I deſire that you will ſend me over the 'Length of a *Roman* Ladies Neck, as it ſtood be-'fore your late Prohibition. We have ſome here 'who have Necks of one, two, and three Foot in 'Length, ſome that have Necks which reach down 'to their Middles, and, indeed, ſome who may be 'ſaid to be all Neck and no Body. I hope, at the 'ſame time, you obſerve the Stays of your Female 'Subjects, that you have alſo an Eye to their Pet-'ticoats, which riſe in this Iſland daily. When 'the Petticoats reaches but to the Knee, and the 'Stays fall to the fifth Rib (which I hear is to be 'the Standard of each, as it has been lately ſettled 'in a Junto of the Sex) I will take care to ſend 'you one of either Sort, which I Advertiſe you of 'before hand, that you may not compute the Sta-'ture of our *Engliſh* Women from the Length of 'their Garments. In the mean time I have deſired 'the Maſter of a Veſſel, who tells me that he ſhall 'touch at *Civita Vecchia*, to preſent you with a 'certain Female Machine which, I believe, will puz-'zle your Infallibility to diſcover the Uſe of it. 'Not to keep you in ſuſpenſe, it is what we call 'in this Country a Hooped-Petticoat. I ſhall only 'beg of you to let me know, whether you find any 'Garment of this Nature among all the Reliques 'of your Female Saints, and, in particular, whe-'ther it was ever worn by any one of your twenty 'thouſand Virgin Martyrs.

Yours, uſque adaras,

NESTOR IRONSIDE.

I muſt not diſmiſs this Letter without declaring my ſelf a good Proteſtant, as I hint in the ſubſcribing Part of it. This I think neceſſary to take Notice of, leaſt I ſhould be accuſed, by an Author of *Unexampled* Stupidity, for correſponding with the Head of the *Romiſh* Church.

ERRATA, In *Tueſday's Guardian*, Col. 4. Line 20. dele *they*. In Yeſterday's Col. 1. Line 15. for *their* read *his*.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

THE Famous WATER THEATRE of the late Ingenious Mr. Winſtanly is now opened, and will be Shown for 6 Days, and no longer this Seaſon, at 5 of the Clock every Evening; there is the greateſt Curioſities in Water Works the like was never performed before by any; and ſeveral new Additions will be Shown this Evening, ſuitable to this Month, that never was ſeen before. Boxes 2 s. 6 d. Pit 2 s. firſt Gallery 1 s. 6 d. Upper Gallery 6 d. This is at the lower End of Piccadilly towards Hide-Park; and when that this time is expir'd, ſeveral Curioſities will be removed to his Farm-House at Littlebury in Eſſex, which is now in compleat Order, and both are in the Poſſeſſion of his Widow, and are Shown for her Benefit.

This Day is Publiſh'd,

The General Hiſtory of Trade, and eſpecially conſidered as it reſpects the Britiſh Commerce, as well at Home as to all Parts of the World, with a Diſcourſe of the Uſe of Harbours and Roads for Shipping, as it relates particularly to the filling up the Harbour of Dunkirk. This for the Month of July price 6 d. Printed for J. Baker in Pater-noſter-row; where may be had that for the Month of June price 6 d. The Critical Hiſtory of the Lord Treaſurers of England, price 6 d. Some Cautions againſt thoſe who chuſe Members to ſit in Parliament, price 4 d.

LONDON: Printed for *J. Tonſon* in the *Strand*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertiſements are taken in. 1713.